

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /012 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/INS:RDLORTON

APPROVED BY:NEA/INS:DKUX

DEA:MR. JELLY

S/NM: JMCLAUGHLIN

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R 252246Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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FOR DEA

FOL KATHMANDU 1865 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APRIL 22; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1865

PASS COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJ: VIP TOUR FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NEPALESE CUSTOMS

REF: STATE 079356

1. MBASSADOR CALLED ON D.P. PANDAY, DIRECTOR GENERAL
EPJLSE CUSTOMS, TO INFORM HIM INFORMALLY THAT HE HAD
RECEIVED INVITATION FROM COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS TO
VISIT US. AMBASSADOR SHOWED PANDAY LETTER OF INVITATION
AND PROPOSED ITINERARY. PANDAY WAS DELIGHTED TO

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RECEIVE INVITATION BUT REQUESTED THAT FORMAL INVI-
TATION TO HIM BE SENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

AFFAIRS SINCE HE WOULD FIRST HAVE TO RECEIVE CLEARANCE FROM GON. IN DISCUSSING INVITATION, PANDAY COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON ITINERARY BUT ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DELETE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF LETTER STATING THAT INVITATION WAS BEING ISSUED UNDER AUSPICES OF CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. PANDAY EXPLAINED THAT NARCOTICS CONTROL WAS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE IN GON, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF CHARGES FROM SOME SOURCES THAT GON WAS ACTING UNDER PRESSURE FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, AND HE FEARED THAT HIGHLIGHTING OF SPONSORSHIP BY CABINET COMMITTEE MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE ASSUMED THIS PRESENTATIONAL POINT WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEM, BUT FIRST WISHED TO QUERY WASHINGTON.

2. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT PREVIOUSLY, ISSUE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL IN NEPAL IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. WHILE THERE IS GROWING AWARENESS WITHIN GOVERNMENT OF NEED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO CONTROL NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES IN NEPAL THERE IS AT SAME TIME AN ARTICULATE AND INFLUENTIAL GROUP, INCLUDING SOME WITH VESTED INTERESTS IN STATUS QUO AND CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF PRESS, WHICH HAS ATTEMPTED TO USE CHARGE OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE TO DELAY PROGRESS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO EFFORTS TO PASS EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION IN NEPAL. BOTH WE AND UNDP, WHICH HAS TAKEN LEAD IN HANDLING NARCOTICS ISSUE WITH GON, BELIEVE THAT NEPAL IS MAKING PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO CONTROL NARCOTICS, AND THAT ANY STEPS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED FOR ANY REASON AS FOREIGN INTERFERENCE WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE AT THIS POINT. AS PANDAY IS FULLY AWARE THAT LARGE PORTION OF HIS PROGRAM IN US WILL DEAL WITH NARCOTICS MATTER, AND AS IT IS IN OUR OWN INTERESTS THAT HE OBTAIN CLEARANCE FROM GON TO VISIT US WITH MINIMUM OF FUSS, WE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO DELIVER COMMUNICATION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY CONVEYING INVITATION AND ITINERARY WITHOUT INCLUSION OF PARAGRAPH IN LETTER
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SPECIFYING SPONSORSHIP BY CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. PLEASE ADVISE ALSO IF OCTOBER VISIT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TIMING. CVBO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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